

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SEOUL 01419 260908Z

46

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 DHA-02 CU-02 PC-01 AID-05 IO-11

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /078 W

----- 013720

R 260730Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5664

INFO CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SEOUL 1419

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT KS

SUBJECT: EM-9 TRIALS

REF: SEOUL 1008 (DTG 110734Z FEB 76)

1. SUMMARY: AFTER LAPSE OF SEVERAL WEEKS, EM-9 TRIALS ARE AGAIN PICKING UP WHILE APPREHENSION AND DETENTION OF STUDENTS AND FORMER STUDENTS CONTINUES. END SUMMARY.

2. ON FEBRUARY 20, GOVERNMENT PROSECUTOR DEMANDED SENTENCES OF FIVE YEARS AND THREE YEARS FOR KIM CHOL, FORMER PRESIDENT OF UNITED SOCIALIST PARTY AND THREE OF HIS ASSOCIATES. KIM PLUS YI YONG-SIL (USP SPOKESMAN), KIM CHONG-KIL (USP ORGANIZING CHIEF) AND KANG KWANG-SUK (USP MEMBER) ARE BEING TRIED ON CHARGES THEY VIOLATED EM-9 AND ANTI-COMMUNIST LAW BECAUSE THEY PUBLISHED CONTENTS OF INDICTMENT BROUGHT AGAINST ANOTHER USP MEMBER PAK IN-MOK. PAK WAS TRIED LAST SUMMER ON ALLEGATION THAT HE DEFAMED PRESIDENT PARK IN A BAR IN TAEGU. KIM CHOL ET AL MAINTAINED TRIAL WAS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED AND RELEASE OF INDICTMENT WAS DESIGNED TO PROVE GOVERNMENT'S CASE AGAINST

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SEOUL 01419 260908Z

PAK NON-EXISTENT. SENTENCING IS SET FOR FEBRUARY 27. KIM CHOL

AND OTHERS HAVE BEEN IN PRISON SINCE SEPTEMBER. DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN REPORTED BY AP BUT NOT LOCAL PRESS. (COMMENT: FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES, USP IS DEFUNCT AS A POLITICAL PARTY.)

2. KNOWLEDGEABLE PRESS SOURCE REPORTS THAT FOURTEEN STUDENTS, MOSTLY FROM SNU TEACHERS COLLEGE WERE BROUGHT TO TRIAL FEBRUARY 20 ON EM-9 CHARGES THAT THEY HELD MEMORIAL SERVICE LAST FALL FOR SNU STUDENT WHO IMMOLATED HIMSELF AS PROTEST IN 1974. PROSECUTOR DEMANDED SEVEN YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR TWO STUDENTS AND FIVE YEARS FOR REMAINDER. STUDENTS SANG NATIONAL ANTHEM ENTERING COURTROOM AND SPOKESMAN STATED "WE DID IT FOR THE SAKE OF THE NATION. WE DO NOT REGRET HAVING DONE IT. WE WILL CONTINUE."

3. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ESPIONAGE TRIAL OF 22 KOREAN RESIDENTS OF JAPAN STUDYING AT VARIOUS UNIVERSITIES IN KOREA WILL BEGIN MARCH 3. STUDENTS WERE ARRESTED IN NOVEMBER ON ALLEGATIONS THEY ARE MEMBERS OF ESPIONAGE RING ON CAMPUSES LED BY AGENTS TRAINED IN NORTH KOREA.

4. HEAD OF KOREAN CHRISTIAN STUDENT FEDERATION (KCSF) TOLD EMBOFF THAT TWO WOMEN STUDENTS OF SOODO WOMEN'S COLLEGE AND EWHY UNIVERSITY WERE TRIED FOR EM-9 VIOLATION FEBRUARY 18. THEY WERE ACCUSED OF DISTRIBUTING ANTI-GOVERNMENT LEAFLETS AND HAVE BEEN DETAINED SINCE NOVEMBER. ONE STUDENT RECEIVED NO SENTENCE, AND WAS RELEASED, SECOND STUDENT GOT ONE YEAR, EXECUTION OF HER SENTENCE WAS SUSPENDED. WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO CONFIRM THIS YET.

5. KCSF SOURCE ALSO REPORTED THAT IN PAST WEEK 3 FORMER SOGANG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS WERE APPREHENDED AND DETAINED BY POLICE ON ALLEGATION THEY INVOLVED WITH ANTI-GOVERNMENT UNDERGROUND NEWS-PAPER. STUDENTS WERE CONVICTED ON EM-4 CHARGES IN 1974 AND RELEASED IN FEBRUARY 1975 BY PRESIDENTIAL ORDER. THEY ARE PERMANENTLY BARRED FROM RE-ENTERING UNIVERSITY. IN PUSAN, THREE STUDENTS OF TONG-A UNIVERSITY WERE ARRESTED BECAUSE PAMPHLET THEY PREPARED FOR KCSF MEETING WAS ALLEGED TO CONTAIN REMARKS CRITICAL OF YUSHIN CONSTITUTION. WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE AS YET TO INDEPENDENTLY CONFIRM THESE REPORTS.

6. COMMENT: IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO KEEP LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 SEOUL 01419 260908Z

UP WITH EM-9 TRIALS SINCE THERE IS NO ADVANCE NOTICE OF COURT SCHEDULES AND NO BEFORE OR AFTER PRESS COVERAGE. TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, TRIAL SESSIONS OF USP GROUP AND GROUP 14 STUDENTS INCLUDED ABOVE, PLUS CASE OF KYU HUN-CHI AND KIM YUN-SIK REPORTED REFTEL REPRESENT EM-9 TRIAL ACTIVITY THUS FAR IN 1976, ALTHOUGH WE MAY HAVE MISSED SOME AND PREVIOUSLY REPORTED CASE OF TWO STUDENTS IS EXEMPLARY. ACCORDING TO OUR BEST ESTIMATES WHICH ARE TENTATIVE, SINCE EM-9 WAS DECREED IN MAY 1977, 77

PERSONS HAVE BEEN CHARGED WITH EM-9 VIOLATIONS AND 53 PERSONS,
50 OF THEM STUDENTS HAVE BEEN CONVICTED. WE DO NOT COUNT CASES
UNTIL INDEPENDENTLY CONFIRMED. END COMMENT.
SNEIDER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COURT DECISIONS, TRIALS, POLITICAL PRISONERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SEOUL01419
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760074-0165
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760210/aaaaahrs.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 SEOUL 1008
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 JAN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 JAN 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <06 JUL 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EM-9 TRIALS
TAGS: PINT, KS, (KIM CHOL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006